

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /072 W

----- 065160

R 201300Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5733

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNESCO, IS, XF

SUBJECT: UNESCO INITIATIVE ON THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

REF: (A) PARIS 23027, (B) PARIS 23481

1. THE LETTER FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WAS DISCUSSED AUGUST 10 WITH THE MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (BAR-YAACOV). HE SAID THE LETTER WAS RECEIVED IN JERUSALEM AUGUST 13 AND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE MINISTRY THIS WEEK. THE MINISTRY'S REACTION GENERALLY IS FAVORABLE.

2. BAR-YAACOV SAID THE LETTER IS POSITIVE IN THREE ASPECTS. FIRST, THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 13.1 SECOND, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DELEGATION WHICH M'BOW PROPOSES TO SEND TO THE TERRITORIES CALLS FOR IT TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION RATHER THAN TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY. THIRD, WHILE THE THREE INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE DG ARE FROM COUNTRIES WITH WHOM ISRAEL DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THEY ARE REFERRED TO AS THE DG'S REPRESENTATIVES AND ISRAEL WOULD CONSIDER THIS ACCEPTABLE. THE ONLY NEGATIVE ASPECT OF THE

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LETTER MENTIONED BY BAR-YAACOV WAS THE STATEMENT IN

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE THAT THE VISITORS SHOULD PREPARE PROPOSALS FOR UNESCO ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES; THE MFA FINDS THIS WORKING, WHILE VAGUE AND GENERAL, SOMEWHAT TROUBLING.

3. BAR-YAACOV SAID THE MINISTRY'S INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE CABLED TO THE ISRAELI PERMREP IN PARIS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE SAID THOSE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE TO MAKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE DG'S PROPOSAL BUT WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE TIMING HE SUGGESTED FOR THE VISIT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE; M'BOW HAD SUGGESTED A VISIT OF TEN TO FIFTEEN DAYS AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. THE ISRAELIS WILL POINT OUT THAT THE MOSLEM HOLIDAY OF RAMADAN WILL BEGIN IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER, THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS WILL BEGIN THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER, AND THE ISRAELIS WILL HOST A SIMILAR VISIT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ILO (UPSAL) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11. THEREFORE, THE ISRAELIS WILL SUGGEST THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI IN OCTOBER.

4. (BAR-YAACOV COMMENTED THAT THE DG'S SUGGESTION THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER ALMOST CAUSES THE ISRAELIS TO QUESTION WHETHER THE PROPOSED VISIT IS SERIOUS. HE SAID THE THREE REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NEED TIME TO PREPARE AND STUDY PREVIOUS PAPERS BEFORE EMBARKING ON THEIR VISIT TO ISRAEL IF THIS VISIT IS TO BE MEANINGFUL.)

5. BAR-YAACOV SAID THE ISRAELIS WILL PROPOSE IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THE DG THAT HE ANNOUNCE AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE THAT HE AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED ON THE VISIT AND HAVE SET A DATE. HE REQUESTED THAT THE US SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF ISRAEL TO ENCOURAGE THE DG TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO AVOID DEBATE IN NAIROBI IF POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESOLUTIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV05733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760320-0311
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760832/aaaabbpix.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 23027, 76 PARIS 23481
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO INITIATIVE ON THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, IS, XF, UNESCO, (M'BOW, AMADOU MAHTAR), (BAR-YAACOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006